



CITY OF MONROE

Engineering and Public Services  
Water and Wastewater Utilities

May 22, 2018

Representative Joseph Bellino  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

**RE: CITY OF MONROE WATER SYSTEM, MONROE COUNTY  
VOTE NO ON H.B. 5723 (PIPE BILL)**

Dear Representative Bellino:

We are writing you to express our opposition to H.B. 5723, commonly referred to as the "pipe bill." The City of Monroe is opposed to this legislation because it preempts local control and places harmful, shortsighted mandates on critical engineering decisions.

The City of Monroe maintains a water distribution system that consists of over 306 miles of various piping sizes and materials. Your private home is located and served by our system. Did you know that over 50% of our system is made up of plastic pipe, but has nine different material types? Every day our engineers and water professionals make calculated design decisions, including what materials to acquire, based on what is in the best interest of our customers. Our water system operators work hard every day to ensure that our customers have access to safe, reliable and affordable water. Given the amount of care and attention that goes into our water system, we believe that this legislation is unnecessary, and it will undermine our sovereignty.

If H.B. 5723 passes, it will harm our water system and our customers. It will preempt our local decision making authority, delay projects and unnecessarily increase costs through litigation and additional red tape. Ultimately, it will make it harder to serve the customers we strive the hardest to serve. Our water systems and our communities are too important to pass this type of legislation.

Thankfully, eleven other states have previously rejected similar legislation. No state has passed this type of legislation, and Michigan should not be the first and only to do so. Accordingly, I urge you to vote **NO** on H.B. 5723.

Thank you for your service to our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry S. LaRoy".

Barry S. LaRoy, P.E.  
Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Lewis".

Patrick M. Lewis, P.E.  
Director of Engineering & Public Services



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CITY OF MONROE

Engineering and Public Services  
Water and Wastewater Utilities

May 22, 2018

Representative Jason Sheppard  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

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Director of Engineering & Public Services